FORM PTO-1390

US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEYS DOCKET NUMBER **P00,1177** 

REV. 5-93

# TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

09/646812

PCT/DE99/00734

16 MARCH 1999

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
24 MARCH 1998

TITLE OF INVENTION "METHOD AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING CONNECTIONS FOR CALLS TO AND BY RADIO SUBSCRIBERS"

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

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### KOEN MUYSEWINKEL, ET AL.

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

I. A This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.

This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.

This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay.

A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.

A copy of International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) - drawings attached.

- a. 

  is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
- b. 

  has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
- c. u is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)
- A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2) drawings attached.

Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(3))

- a. 

  are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
- b.  $\square$  have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
- c. D have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
- d. 

  have not been made and will not be made.

A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).

An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)) change of address of applicants' representative attached

A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

### Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:

- 11. 

  An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98; (PTO 1449, Prior Art, Search Report).
- 12. 
  An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 3.28 and 3.31 is included. (SEE ATTACHED ENVELOPE)
- 13. 

  Amendment "A" Prior to Action.
  - A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
- 14. 

  A substitute specification.
- 15. 

  A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
- 16. ☑ Other items or information:
  - a. 

    Request for Approval of Drawing Modifications, 3 sheets of drawings, Figures 1-3.

  - c. EXPRESS MAIL # EJ220499435US dated September 22, 2000.

430 Rec'd PCT/PTO 2 2 SEP 2000

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known,	7646812		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/DE99/00734		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER POO,1177		
17. ☑ The following fees are submitted:			CALCULATIONS	PTO USE ONLY			
BASIC NATIO	NAL FEE (37 C.F.R. 's been prepared by the EP	<b>1.492(</b> O or JPC	a)(1)-(5):	\$840.00			
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No international p international searc	reliminary examination fee ch fee paid to USPTO (37 (	paid to C.F.R. 1	USPTO (37 C.F.R. .445(a)(2)	1.482) but \$760.00			
search fee (37 C.F	nal preliminary examination F.R. 1.445(a)(2) paid to US	SPTO		\$970.00			
International prelir claims satisfied pr	minary examination fee pai rovisions of PCT Article 33	id to USI (2)-(4) .	PTO (37 C.F.R. 1.4	182) and all \$ 96.00			
	ENTER APPR	OPRIA	TE BASIC FEE	AMOUNT =	\$ 840.00		
Surcharge of \$130.00 for fu from the earliest claimed price	urnishing the oath or declar ority date (37 C.F.R. 1.49)	ration la 2(e)).	ter than ☐ 20 ☐	30 months	\$		
Claims	Number Filed		Number Extra	Rate			
Total Claims	14 - 2	20 =	0	X \$ 18.00	\$		
Independent Claims	02 -	3 =	0	X \$ 78.00	\$		
Multiple Dependent Cla	aims	_		\$260.00+	\$		
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$ 840.00			
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Processing fee of \$130.00 for from the earliest claimed prior	or furnishing the English tra prity date (37 CFR 1.492(f	anslatior )).	n later than 🗆 20	□ 30 months +	\$		
5 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 1			TOTAL NATI	ONAL FEE =	\$ 840.00		
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NOTE: Where an appropriate filed and granted to restore the	time limit under 37 C.F.R. ne application to pending s	. 1.494 tatus.				37(a) or (b)) must be	
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SCHIFF HARDIN & WAI PATENT DEPARTMENT 6600 Sears Tower			Mark Bergn				
Chicago, Illinois 60606 (312) 258-5500	-6473		45,877				
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### **BOX PCT**

IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY--CHAPTER II

5 APPLICANT(S):

KOEN MUYSEWINKEL, ET AL.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.:

P00,1177

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO: PCT/DE99/00734

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE:

16 MARCH 1999

INVENTION:

"METHOD AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

FOR CONTROLLING CONNECTIONS FOR CALLS TO

AND BY RADIO SUBSCRIBERS"

10 Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231

### **AMENDMENT "A" PRIOR TO ACTION**

Sir:

Applicants herewith amend the above-referenced PCT application, and 15 request entry of the Amendment prior to examination on the United States Examination Phase.

### **IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

In the original application, at the top of page 1, delete "GR 98 P 1418 P".

20 In the original application, at the top of pages 2-17, delete "GR 98 P 1418".

> At the top of amended pages 2, 2a, and 15, delete "GR 98 P 1418 P"; and delete "PCT/DE99/00734".

> > At the top of amended page 13, delete "GR 98 P 1418 P";

25 "PCT/DE99/00934"; and "New Patent Claims".

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### On page 1:

cancel lines 1-5 and substitute

### --SPECIFICATION

### TITLE

"METHOD AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING CONNECTIONS FOR CALLS TO AND BY RADIO SUBSCRIBERS"

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention-- therefor;

above line 10, insert

--Description of the Related Art--;

in line 18, cancel "," and substitute -- (-- therefor;

in line 19, cancel "," and substitute --)-- therefor:

in line 20, after "subscribers", insert --,--; and

in line 21, cancel "-" and substitute --,-- therefor, and after the last "connections", insert --,--.

### On amended page 2:

above line 28, insert --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--; and cancel lines 32-37 and substitute

This object is achieved by a method for connection control in a radio communications system during calls from and to radio subscribers, the radio communication system comprising a radio subsystem via which communications terminals which allow access by the radio subscribers can be connected in an associated radio area, and a switching center for switching through connections, comprising the steps of routing the connections between the radio subsystem and the switching center via a radio transmission unit, the step of routing comprising switching through, for a case of a call within a radio area between radio subscribers within a same the radio area, or for a case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas, only signaling connections from the radio

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transmission unit to the switching center, and switching traffic channel connections by the radio transmission unit between a first radio subsystem and a second radio subsystem for a case of a call within a radio area from the radio subsystem itself, or for a case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas.

The object of the invention is also achieved by a radio communications system for connection control during calls from and to radio subscribers, comprising communication terminals; a radio subsystem via which the communications terminals which allow access by the radio subscribers can be connected in an associated radio area; a switching center for switching through connections; a radio transmission unit which is arranged between the radio subsystem and the switching center and via which the connections are routed, the routing being implemented so that when a call within a radio area between radio subscribers within a same radio area, or when a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas are made, only signaling connections are switched through from the radio transmission unit to the switching center, and the routing being implemented so that traffic channel connections are switched by the radio transmission unit between a first radio subsystem and a second radio subsystem when a call is made within a radio area from the first radio subsystem or when a call is made between radio subscribers in different radio areas.— therefor.

### On page 4:

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in line 9, after "example", insert --,--;
in line 30, before "on", insert --and--, and cancel "which" and substitute -
-this-- therefor; and
in line 31, after "identifier", insert --,--.
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### On page 5:

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in line 15, cancel "that for"; above line 20, insert --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --;
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in line 22, cancel ", in which:" and substitute --.-- therefor; in line 23, cancel "shows the" and substitute --is a-- therefor; in line 25, cancel "shows" and substitute --is-- therefor; in line 29, cancel "shows" and substitute --is-- therefor; and above line 33, insert --DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

### On page 6:

in line 5, after "subscribers", insert --,--; in line 11, after "example", insert --,--;

in line 13, cancel "- and" and substitute -- the invention may be used-therefor;

in line 17, after "say", insert --,--; and in line 38, after "example", insert --,--.

### On page 7:

in line 7, after "particular", insert --,--; and in line 31, cancel "setting" and substitute --set-- therefor.

### On page 8:

in line 15, cancel "-" and substitute --(-- therefor; in line 16, cancel "-"; and

in line 29, cancel "bypassing" and substitute --i.e., bypassing the switching center-- therefor.

### On page 9:

in line 7, after "example", insert --,--; and in line 31, cancel "using" and substitute --via-- therefor.

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On page 10, in line 15, cancel "- see the arrows printed in bold" and substitute -- (see the bold arrows)-- therefor.

### On page 11:

in line 2, cancel "[lacuna]" and substitute --to-- therefor; in lines 16-17, cancel "- see the arrows printed in bold" and substitute -- (see the bold arrows)-- therefor; and

in line 23, after "element", insert --,--.

### On page 12, below line 13, insert

-- The above-described method and communication system are illustrative of the principles of the present invention. Numerous modifications and adaptions thereof will be readily apparent to those skilled in this art without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.--.

### IN THE CLAIMS:

At the top of amended page 13, delete "GR 98 P 1418 P"; "PCT/DE99/00934" and "New Patent Claims".

On amended page 13, replace "Patent Claims" with <u>WHAT IS</u> <u>CLAIMED IS:</u>

On amended page 15, delete "GR 98 P 1418 P" and "PCT/DE99/00734".

### 20 Please amend claims 1-14 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for connection control in a radio communications system [(KN)] during calls from and [/] to radio subscribers, said radio communication system comprising a [having - at least one] radio subsystem [(RSS, RSS\*)] via which communications terminals [(MS)] which allow access by said [the] radio subscribers can be connected in an associated radio area [(RRA, RRA\*)], and a [- at least one] switching center [(MSC)] for switching

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RRA\*)].

through connections, <u>comprising the steps of:</u> [characterized]

routing said [- in that the] connections between <u>said</u> [the] radio subsystem [(RSS)] and <u>said</u> [the] switching center [(MSC) are routed] via a radio transmission unit [(UE) in such a way], <u>said step of routing comprising:</u>

switching through, for a [- that, in the] case of a call within a radio area between radio subscribers within a [the] same said radio area [(RRA)], or for a [in the] case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas [(RRA, RRA\*)], only signaling connections [(si) are switched through] from said [the] radio transmission unit [(UE)] to said [the] switching center [(MSC)], and switching [- that] traffic channel connections [(ni) are switched] by said [the] radio transmission unit [(UE)] between a first radio subsystem [(RSS)] and a second radio subsystem [(RSS\*) in the] for a case of a call within a radio area from said [the] radio subsystem [(RSS)] itself, or for a [in the] case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas [(RRA,

2. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, <u>further comprising the step of:</u> [in which]

call which relates to a radio subscriber and a subscriber of an\_other communications system [(PSTN), only the signaling connections (si) are switched through] from said [the] radio transmission unit [(UE)] to said [the] switching center [(MSC)], and switching said [the] traffic channel connections [(ni)] between said [the] radio communications system [(KN)] and said [the] other communications system [(PSTN) are switched] by said [the] radio transmission unit [(UE)].

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3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of: [or 2, in which]

sending back control information [(intra, inter) is sent back] from said [the] switching center [(MSC)] via a switched-through signaling connection [(si)], said radio subsystem or said radio transmission unit initiating said switching of traffic channel connections utilizing said [on the basis of which] control information [(intra, inter) the radio subsystem (RSS) and/or the radio transmission unit (UE) cause/causes the switching of the traffic channel connections (ni)].

4. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, <u>further comprising the</u> <u>step of:</u> [in which]

sending an identifier [(cic)] to identify trunks which are in each case used for a [the] call in said [the] switching center [(MSC) are also sent] back from said [the] switching center [(MSC)] via a switched-through signaling connection [(si), on the basis of which identifier (cic) the], said radio subsystem [(RSS) checks] checking, utilizing said identifier, for a [the] presence of a call within a radio area, and causing said [causes the] switching of said [the] traffic channel connections [(ni)].

- 5. (Amended) The method as claimed in <u>claim 1</u>, <u>further comprising the</u> <u>step of transmitting</u> [one of the preceding claims, in which] voice signals [are transmitted] on <u>said</u> [the] traffic channel connections [(ni)].
- 6. (Amended) The method as claimed in <u>claim 1</u>, <u>wherein</u> [one of the preceding claims, in which] a satellite [(SAT)] is used as <u>said</u> [the] radio transmission unit [(UE)].
- 7. (Amended) The method as claimed in <u>claim 1</u>, <u>further comprising the</u>
  25 <u>step of:</u> [one of the preceding claims, in which]

  <u>carrying out a transcoder and data rate adaptation function:</u>

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[the] switching <u>said</u> [of the] signaling connections [(si)] and <u>said</u> [of the] traffic channel connections [(ni)] for <u>an</u> [the] uplink transmission direction from <u>said</u> [the] communications terminal [(MS)] to <u>said</u> [the] radio subsystem [(RSS) takes] <u>taking</u> place after <u>said step of</u> carrying out a transcoder and data rate adaptation function, and

switching said signaling connections and said traffic channel connection [that] for <u>a</u> [the] downlink transmission direction from <u>said</u> [the] radio subsystem [(RSS)] to <u>said</u> [the] communications terminal [(MS) takes] <u>taking</u> place before <u>said step of</u> carrying out the transcoder and data rate adaptation function in <u>a</u> [the] respective <u>said</u> radio subsystem [(RSS)].

8. (Amended) The method as claimed in <u>claim 1, further comprising the</u> <u>step of:</u> [one of the preceding claims, in which]

controlling said [the] switching of said [the] signaling connections [(si)] and of said [the] traffic channel connections [(ni)] in said [the] respective radio subsystem [(RSS, RSS\*) is controlled] by an interworking unit [(IWU, IWU\*)] with a through-switching capability.

9. (Amended) The method as claimed <u>claim 1</u>, <u>further comprising the step</u> <u>of:</u> [in one of the preceding claims, in which]

controlling said [the] switching of said [the] signaling connections [(si)] to said [the] switching center [(MSC) is controlled] by an interworking unit [(IWU)] with a through-switching capability.

- 10. (Amended) A radio communications system [(KN)] for connection control during calls from and [/] to radio subscribers, comprising: [which has] communication terminals;
- 25 <u>a</u> [- at least one] radio subsystem [(RSS, RSS\*)] via which <u>said</u> communications terminals [(MS)] which allow access by the radio subscribers can be connected in an associated radio area; [(RRA, RRA\*), and]

 $\underline{a}$  [- at least one] switching center [(MSC)] for switching through connections;

[characterized by]

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a radio transmission unit [(UE)] which is arranged between <u>said</u> [the] radio subsystem [(RSS)] and <u>said</u> [the] switching center [(MSC)] and via which <u>said</u> [the] connections are routed, <u>said</u> routing being implemented so that when [in such a way, - that, in the case of] a call within a radio area between radio subscribers within <u>a</u> [the] same radio area [(RRA)], or <u>when</u> [in the case of] a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas [(RRA, RRA\*)] <u>are made</u>, only signaling connections [(si)] are switched through from <u>said</u> [the] radio transmission unit [(UE)] to <u>said</u> [the] switching center [(MSC)], and <u>said</u> routing <u>being implemented so</u> [-] that traffic channel connections [(ni)] are switched by <u>said</u> [the] radio transmission unit [(UE)] between a first radio subsystem [(RSS)] and a second radio subsystem [(RSS\*) in the case of] <u>when</u> a call <u>is made</u> within a radio area from <u>said first</u> [the] radio subsystem [(RSS) itself] or <u>when</u> [in the case of] a call <u>is made</u> between radio subscribers in different radio areas [(RRA, RRA\*)].

- 11. (Amended) The radio communications system as claimed in claim 10, wherein [having] said [a] radio transmission unit [(UE) which] is [in the form of] a satellite [(SAT)].
- 12. (Amended) The radio communications system as claimed in claim 10 [or 11, having], further comprising an interworking unit [(IWU, IWU\*)] for controlling <u>said</u> [the] switching of <u>said</u> [the] signaling connections [(si)] and of <u>said</u> [the] traffic channel connections [(ni)] in <u>a</u> [the] respective <u>said</u> radio subsystem [(RSS, RSS\*)].
- 13. (Amended) The radio communications system as claimed in claim 12, further comprising [having an interworking unit (IWU, IWU\*) which is connected

to] a transcoder and data rate adaptation unit [(TRAU, TRAU\*)], which is connected to said interworking unit.

14. (Amended) The radio communications system as claimed in <u>claim 10</u>, <u>further comprising</u> [one of claims 10 to 13, having] an interworking unit [(IWU)] for controlling [the] switching of <u>said</u> [the] connections in <u>said</u> [the] switching center [(MSC)].

### IN THE ABSTRACT

Delete original page 17 and replace the Abstract with Replacement Page 17 which has been provided on a separate sheet attached to the amendment. No new matter has been added.

### **REMARKS**

The present Amendment revises the specification and claims to conform to United States patent practice, before examination of the present PCT application in the United States National Examination Phase. Additionally, the Applicants include herewith a copy of the new Abstract on a separate page. All of the changes are editorial and applicant believes no new matter is added thereby. The amendment of claims 1-14 is not intended to be a surrender of any of the subject matter of those claims.

Early examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

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Submitted by,

Mark Bergner

SCHIFF HARDIN & WAITE PATENT DEPARTMENT

6600 Sears Tower

Chicago, Illinois 60606-6473

(312) 258-5779

Attorney for Applicant(s)

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## 430 Rec'd PCT/PTO 2 2 SEP 2000

### BOX PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY--CHAPTER II

5 APPLICANT(S):

KOEN MUYSEWINKEL, ET AL.

(Reg. No. 45,877)

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.:

P00,1177

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO:

PCT/DE99/00734

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE:

16 MARCH 1999

INVENTION:

"METHOD AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

FOR CONTROLLING CONNECTIONS FOR CALLS TO

AND BY RADIO SUBSCRIBERS"

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231

### **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF DRAWING MODIFICATIONS**

Sir:

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Enclosed are copies of the drawings (Figures 1-3) showing in red, the addition of labels to each of the Figures. Applicant believes that no new matter has been added. Approval of the additions is respectfully requested.

Submitted by,

Mark Bergner

SCHIFF HARDIN & WAITE

PATENT DEPARTMENT

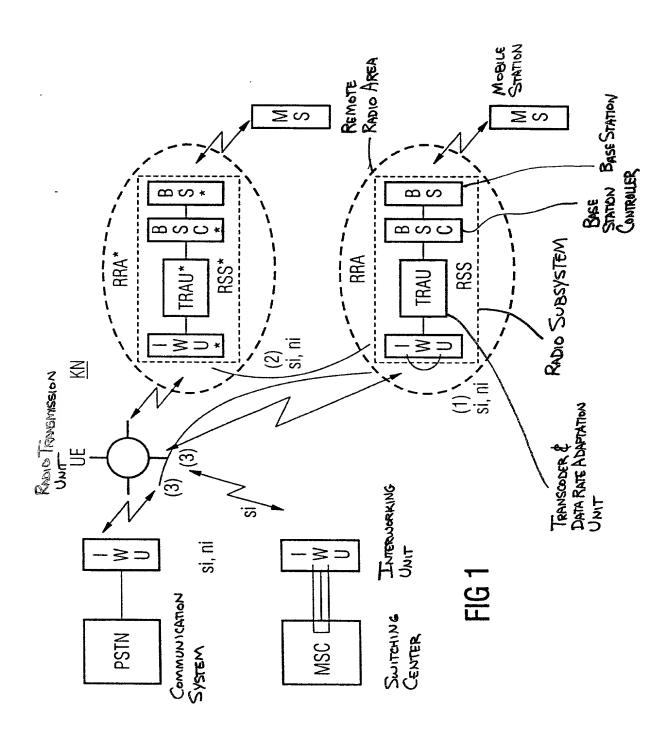
6600 Sears Tower

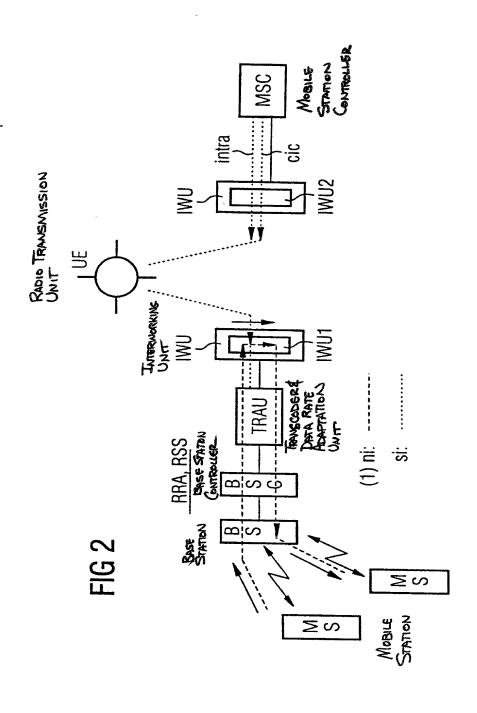
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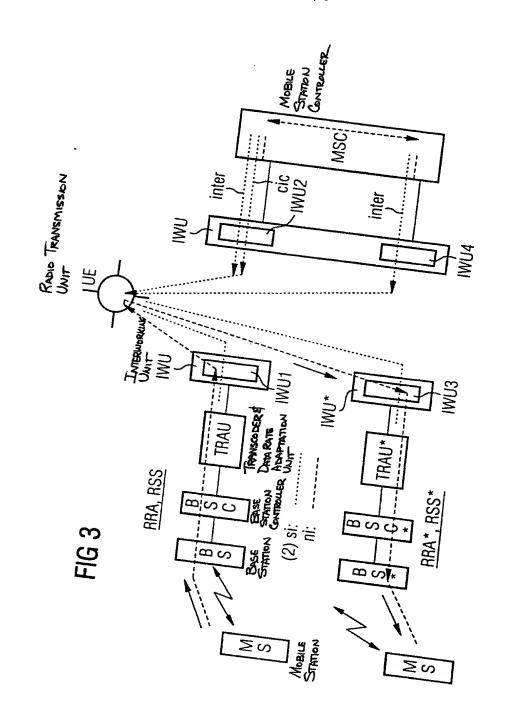
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Attorney for Applicant(s)

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GR 98 P 1418 P

Description

Method and radio communications system for connection control during calls from/to radio subscribers

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The invention relates to a method for connection control during calls from/to radio subscribers in a radio communications system, and to a corresponding radio communications system.

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Radio communications systems are used supplement orexpand existing public or private communications systems. For example, in contrast public communications systems such as the public telephone network, radio communications systems can at partially use wire-free communications connections. As is known, such radio communications systems have radio devices which can be combined to form at least one radio subsystem, for linking, without any wires, communications terminals which each allow access by radio subscribers and switching devices for switching through connections - signaling connections and traffic channel connections. A radio subsystem can normally be assigned an associated radio area for supervising the radio subscribers moving with their communications terminals in that area. This means that

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switching centers, radio devices and communications terminals which are networked to one another in a radio communications system can be connected to one another in a very large number of ways.

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Each connection on the basis of an outgoing or incoming call, in which at least one radio subscriber is involved, must normally be routed via the switching center. For certain areas, particularly remote areas - for example islands, mountain valleys, deserts, etc. - which are controlled by a radio subsystem with appropriate radio devices, it may not be economically worthwhile to use

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GR 98 P 1418 P PCT/DE99/00734

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and operate a dedicated switching center for each area. The use of the existing telecommunications resources should be optimized for this situation. Furthermore, a significant number of countries have no infrastructure to produce the link between the radio devices and one more central switching centers ìn radio communications in system order to use telecommunications services at a reasonable cost.

WO 95/24789 discloses a method for connection control in a radio communications system, which has transcoder units, at a distance from the base stations, for coding and decoding voice signals. In the case of a call between radio subscribers within a radio area or in the case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas, only signaling connections are switched through to the switching center. The traffic channel connections are switched by the radio subsystem itself for the first-mentioned case, and are switched between different radio subsystems for the second-mentioned case.

US 5,081,703 discloses a satellite communications system for rural areas, in which signals received from the satellites are converted by conversion units into signals for a switching center, and vice versa. In this case, the conversion units communicate with mobile stations which are located in predetermined geographical areas.

One object of the present invention is thus to specify a method and a radio communications system which improves the connection control during calls from/to radio subscribers.

According to the invention, this object is achieved by the features of patent claim 1 with regard to the method, and by the features of patent claim 10 with regard to the radio communications system. Developments of the invention can be found in the dependent claims.

Based on a radio communications system having at least one radio subsystem for access by the radio

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subscribers in an associated radio area and having at least one switching center for switching through connections, the method and the radio communications system according to the invention provide for the connections between the radio subsystem and the switching center to be routed via a radio transmission unit in such a way,

- that, in the case of a call within a radio area between radio subscribers within the same radio area, or in the case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas, only signaling connections are switched through from the radio transmission unit to the switching center, and
- that traffic channel connections are switched 15 by the radio transmission unit between a first radio

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subsystem and a second radio subsystem in the case of a call within a radio area from the radio subsystem itself or in the case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas.

Since only the signaling connections switched via the radio transmission unit - preferably in the form of a satellite - to the switching center, while the traffic channel connections are switched either locally in the radio subsystem or in the radio transmission unit, the connection control optimized with a dynamic switching capacity particularly for a remote radio area without its own switching center. It is thus sufficient to equip each such radio area only with radio devices rather than with an oversize switching center, and to provide the through-switching functions of a switching center for traffic channel connections which are to be used as optimally as possible, in the radio subsystem or in the radio transmission unit according to the invention. A further advantage subject of the matter of invention over a solution in which the traffic channel connections are always switched through as far as the switching center is that, in the case of a call within a radio area, no traffic channel connections whatsoever need be switched in the radio transmission unit, and in the case of a call between radio subscribers different radio areas, fewer traffic channel connections need be switched in the radio transmission unit - since the switching center is bypassed for both parts of the call connection. In both cases, result in an increase in capacity with regard to the transmission bandwidth in the radio transmission unit, which is at its greatest when the traffic channel connections with the user information are switched through in the case of a call within a radio area.

According to one advantageous development of the invention, even in the case of a call which relates to a radio subscriber and a subscriber of another communications system,

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only the signaling connections are switched through from the radio transmission unit to the switching center, while the traffic channel connections between radio communications system and the other communications system are switched by the radio transmission unit. This additionally results increase in capacity in the case of a call in which traffic channel connections from the other communications system, for example a cable-based public communications network (PLMN), would normally have to be switched to the switching center of the radio communications system but, according to the development, are actually passed on directly from the radio transmission unit to the radio subsystem.

According to another development of the invention, it has been found to be advantageous for control information to be sent back from the switching center via a switched-through signaling connection, on the basis of which control information the radio subsystem and/or the radio transmission unit cause/causes the traffic channel connections. It is thus possible in a simple way for the radio subsystem or the radio transmission unit to use the received control information to decide whether it should or should not switch through the user connections locally.

In this case, it is particularly advantageous if an identifier to identify trunks which are in each case used for the call in the switching center are also sent back from the switching center via a switched-through signaling connection, on the basis of which identifier the radio subsystem checks for the presence of a call within a radio area, and causes the switching of the traffic channel connections. The switching center uses this information to inform the radio subsystem in a simple way that the traffic channel connections can be switched through locally, since this is a call within the radio area.

Other developments of the invention provide for the switching of the signaling connections and of the traffic channel connections in the respective radio subsystem to be controlled by interworking units with a through-switching capability, and for the switching of the signaling connections to the switching center to be controlled by further interworking units with a through-switching capability.

It has also been found to be advantageous for the switching of the signaling connections and of the traffic channel connections for the uplink transmission direction from the communications terminal to the radio subsystem to be carried out after carrying out a transcoder and data rate adaptation function, and for that for the downlink transmission direction from the radio subsystem to the communications terminal to be carried out before carrying out the transcoder and data rate adaptation function in the respective radio subsystem.

20 The subject matter of the invention will be explained in more detail in the following text with reference to drawing illustrations, in which:

- Figure 1 shows the block diagram of a radio communications system,
- 25 Figure 2 shows a schematic illustration of the connection control process according to the invention for a call within a radio area, and
- Figure 3 shows a schematic illustration of the connection control process according to the invention for a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas.

Figure 1 shows the block diagram of a radio communications system KN, which normally has a number of radio subsystems to control the radio resources in radio areas in which there are radio subscribers. The chosen example shows

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two radio subsystems RSS, RSS\* for radio coverage of the associated radio areas RRA, RRA\* (Remote Radio Area), via which communications terminals - mobile stations MS which allow access to the subscribers can be connected via a radio interface. in a radio communications system which is operated in accordance with the GSM method have been chosen as examples of the radio devices. However, the invention is not limited to GSM systems and can be used irrespective of the access technology for transmission, for example TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access), FDMA (Frequency Division Multiple Access), CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) - and in other radio communications systems as well. Furthermore, the radio communications system KN has at least switching center MSC for switching through connections, that is to say signaling connections and user channel connections, for calls from/to the radio subscribers. A gateway from the radio communications system KN to another communications system - in the present example to the public telephone network PLMN - is feasible, so that the connections for calls between a subscriber in the other communications system and a radio subscriber in the radio communications system KN can also controlled according to the subject matter of invention.

As is known, every radio subsystem RSS, RSS\* has a base station BS, BS\*, as the device of the end mobile to the stations MS, communication via the radio interface. A base station controller BSC, BSC\* is connected to the base station BS, BS\* in order to manage the radio resources - such as radio channel assignment. A transcoder and data rate adaptation unit TRAU, TRAU\* is connected to the base station controller BSC, BSC\* and is used to match the transmission rate - for example 16 kbit/s - used in the radio subsystem RSS, RSS\* and on the radio interface, and the transmission rate - for example 64 kbit/s processed in the switching center MSC to one another in

both transmission directions (uplink and downlink).

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Furthermore, the transcoder and data rate adaptation unit TRAU, TRAU\* carries out the task of decompressing the information which was transmitted in compressed form via the radio interface.

In order to produce a link between the radio RSS\* without a dedicated switching subsystems center - in particular for remote radio areas - and the switching center MSC wherever it is located, a radio transmission unit UE is connected in between. connection control, this means that, for calls within a radio area (Intra Remote Radio Area call) - see case (1) - which take place between radio subscribers within the same radio area RRA, the user connections ni are through locally by the associated radio switched subsystem RSS. Only the signaling connections si are passed on via the radio transmission unit UE to the switching center MSC. The transmission bandwidth of the radio transmission unit UE, which is preferably in the form of a satellite, is utilized more economically by local through-switching for the user connections ni which contain the user information in the form of voice and data - since, otherwise, the first partial user connection of the calling radio subscriber and the second partial user connection of the called radio subscriber would have to be passed via the satellite for every call. The local through-switching functions radio the subsystem RSS are provided interworking unit IWU, which is preferably connected to the transcoder and data rate adaptation unit TRAU, or is integrated in it.

During the connection setting-up process, the switching center MSC normally assigns transmission channels to the radio subsystem RSS for both radio subscribers. In doing so, it confirms - using known GSM procedures to determine the locations - that both radio subscribers are located in the same radio area RRA. The switching center MSC thus sends an identifier for identification of the respective

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trunks used for the two connection elements in the switching center MSC, via a signaling connection si to radio area RRA, on basis of the which interworking unit IWU of the radio subsystem RSS identity code the presence of the call within a radio area, and initiates internal switching of the traffic channel connections. The signaling connections si are always switched by the radio subsystem RSS via the satellite UE to the switching center MSC. The satellite UE uses the information about the presence of the call within a radio area to identify that it need not provide any transmission channels for the user connections ni.

In the case of a call between radio subscribers who are located in different radio areas RRA, RRA\* see case (2) - , connection control is carried out in such a way that the satellite UE once again switches through only the signaling connections si to the switching center MSC, and switches the traffic channel connections ni between the radio subsystem RSS and the radio subsystem RSS\*. The through-switching process for the traffic channel connections ni in the satellite UE is assisted by the interworking unit IWU, IWU\* assigned to the respective radio subsystem RSS, RSS\*. This means that the satellite UE can directly link transmission channels for voice signal transmission which associated with different radio subsystems RSS, RSS\* or radio areas RRA, RRA\*, without having to include the switching center MSC (bypassing). This leads to an improvement in capacity with regard to the transmission bandwidth of the satellite UE. The signaling connections si for such calls are also always switched from the respective radio subsystem RSS, RSS\* via the satellite UE to the switching center MSC.

35 A further example relating to the saving of bandwidth in the satellite UE is to bypass the switching center MSC for connection control for traffic channel connections ni which need to be switched when calls occur between the radio subscriber

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and the subscriber in the other communications system PSTN. Only the signaling connections si from satellite UE to the switching center MSC are switched through in the same way as that described above while, in contrast, the traffic channel connections ni from the satellite UE are switched through directly between the radio subsystem - for example the radio subsystem RSS - of the radio communication system KN responsible for the radio subscriber, and the communications system responsible for the other subscriber. communications system PSTN also has an interworking unit IWU with a through-switching capability to support direct switching of the traffic channel connections ni - see case (3) in Figure 1.

Figure 2 shows a schematic illustration of the connection control process according to the invention with the devices involved in this process for a call within a radio area, as shown in case (1) in Figure 1. In this case, the routing of the traffic channel connections ni is shown as a dashed-dotted line, and the routing of the signaling connections si is shown as a dotted line. The call in the radio area RRA is initiated from the mobile station MS of a first radio subscriber, and its destination is a second radio subscriber. The radio subsystem RSS handles the call in accordance with the known GSM procedures. The switching center MSC, which is coupled via the satellite UE to the radio subsystem RSS, likewise uses the known GSM procedures to identify the fact that the called radio subscriber is located in the same radio area RRA. It thus generates the control information intra, using which the presence of the call within the radio area can be checked. Furthermore, the switching center MSC produces an identity code cic (circuit identity code) which identity code the trunks used in the switching center MSC for the radio subscribers involved with the call. Both signaling information items cic, intra are sent from an interworking unit IWU2, which is arranged in the interworking unit IWU in the switching center

MSC, via the satellite UE to an

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interworking unit IWU1 in the interworking unit IWU of the relevant radio subsystem RSS on a signaling connection si.

The interworking unit IWU or the interworking unit IWU1 in the radio subsystem RSS evaluates the received information cic, intra to identify the fact that local through-switching of the traffic channel connections ni is possible, and initiates the throughswitching function triggered via the received signaling information. The traffic channel connections ni thus routed via the interworking unit IWU1 of the interworking unit IWU directly to the radio devices in the radio subsystem - TRAU, BSC and BS - back and from there to the mobile station MS of the called radio subscriber - see the arrows printed in bold.

Figure 3 shows a schematic illustration of the connection control process according to the invention with the devices involved in this process for a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas RRA, RRA\* as shown in case (2) in Figure 1. In this case, the routing of the traffic channel connections ni analogously to the illustration in Figure 2 - is shown as a dashed-dotted line. and the routing signaling connections si is shown as a dotted line. The call in the radio area RRA is initiated from the mobile station MS of a first radio subscriber, and its destination is a second radio subscriber. The radio subsystem RSS handles the call in accordance with the known GSM procedures. The switching center MSC, which is coupled to the radio subsystem RSS via the satellite UE, likewise uses the known GSM procedures to identify the fact that the called radio subscriber is located in another radio area RRA\*. It thus generates a control information item inter which indicates that the call is taking place between radio subscribers in different radio areas RRA, RRA\*. It also receives the identity code cic (circuit identity code) for the trunks used in the switching center MSC. The signaling information is sent from the interworking unit IWU2

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via the satellite UE on a signaling connection si and thus [lacuna] the switching of the traffic channel connections ni in the interworking unit IWU1 - bypassing the switching center MSC - to the radio subsystem RSS\*. In this subsystem, the interworking unit IWU\* has an interworking unit IWU3 which is intended to switch the traffic channel connections ni through for the call. The routing of the traffic channel connections ni from the interworking unit IWU1 to the satellite UE is thus followed by direct connection of the satellite UE to the interworking unit IWU3. The connection is controlled by the interworking unit IWU2. In the radio subsystem RSS\*, the interworking unit IWU3 switches the traffic channel connections ni through, so that the user information - primarily voice signals - is passed to the radio devices - TRAU\*, BSC\* and BS\* - and from there to the mobile station MS of the called radio subscriber - see the arrows printed in bold.

In addition to the interworking unit IWU2, the switching center MSC has a further interworking unit IWU4, from which signaling information — such as the control information inter — relating to the radio subscriber located in the radio area RRA\* and to the trunks used for the second connection element can be sent back via the satellite UE. The through-switching process for connection control according to the invention, which switches the traffic channel connections locally in the radio subsystem or directly in the satellite, requires only half the normal bandwidth when each connection element is passed via the switching center MSC.

A procedure analogous to that in Figure 2 can also be used in case (3) shown in Figure 1, by the through-switching functions acting directly via the satellite UE on the traffic channel connections between the communications system PSTN and the radio subsystem RSS of the radio communications system KN. This depends on the switching center MSC being linked to the communications system PSTN via a radio transmission device UE, preferably a satellite. In this

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case as well, the bypassing of the switching center MSC for voice signal transmission leads to an improvement in capacity, since none of the connection elements needs to be switched to the switching center MSC.

The subject matter of the invention means, in particular, that remote radio areas need be equipped only with those radio devices which are then connected only for signaling purposes via a radio transmission device UE to any desired switching center MSC in the radio communications system, and they themselves locally switch the traffic information through, on a traffic-channel basis, or switch it directly via the radio transmission device.

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- A method for connection control in a radio communications system (KN) during calls from/to radio subscribers, having
  - at least one radio subsystem (RSS, RSS\*) via which communications terminals (MS) which allow access by the radio subscribers can be connected in an associated radio area (RRA, RRA\*),
  - at least one switching center (MSC) for switching through connections, characterized
  - in that the connections between the radio subsystem (RSS) and the switching center (MSC) are routed via a radio transmission unit (UE) in such a way,
    - that, in the case of a call within a radio area between radio subscribers within the same radio area (RRA), or in the case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas (RRA, RRA\*), only signaling connections (si) are switched through from the radio transmission unit (UE) to the switching center (MSC), and
- that traffic channel connections (ni) are switched by the radio transmission unit (UE) between a first radio subsystem (RSS) and a second radio subsystem (RSS\*) in the case of a call within a radio area from the radio subsystem (RSS) itself or in the case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas (RRA, RRA\*).
  - 2. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which in the case of a call which relates to a radio subscriber and a subscriber of another communications system (PSTN), only the signaling connections (si) are switched through from the radio transmission unit (UE) to the switching center (MSC), and the traffic channel connections (ni) between the radio communications system (KN) and the other communications system (PSTN) are switched by the radio transmission unit (UE).

- 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which control information (intra, inter) is sent back from the switching center (MSC) via a switched-through signaling connection (si), on the basis of which control information (intra, inter) the radio subsystem (RSS) and/or the radio transmission unit (UE) cause/causes the switching of the traffic channel connections (ni).
- 4. The method as claimed in claim 3, in which
- an identifier (cic) to identify trunks which are in each case used for the call in the switching center (MSC) are also sent back from the switching center (MSC) via a switched-through signaling connection (si), on the basis of which identifier (cic) the radio
- subsystem (RSS) checks for the presence of a call within a radio area, and causes the switching of the traffic channel connections (ni).
  - 5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which
- 20 voice signals are transmitted on the traffic channel connections (ni).
  - 6. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which
- a satellite (SAT) is used as the radio transmission 25 unit (UE).
  - 7. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which
  - the switching of the signaling connections (si) and of the traffic channel connections (ni) for the uplink transmission direction from the communications terminal
- transmission direction from the communications terminal (MS) to the radio subsystem (RSS) takes place after carrying out a transcoder and data rate adaptation function, and that for the downlink transmission direction from the radio subsystem (RSS) to the
- communications terminal (MS) takes place before carrying out the transcoder and data rate adaptation function in the respective radio subsystem (RSS).
  - 8. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which

the switching of the signaling connections (si) and of the traffic channel connections (ni) in the respective radio subsystem (RSS,

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RSS\*) is controlled by an interworking unit (IWU, IWU\*) with a through-switching capability.

- 9. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which
- 5 the switching of the signaling connections (si) to the switching center (MSC) is controlled by an interworking unit (IWU) with a through-switching capability.
  - 10. A radio communications system (KN) for connection control during calls from/to radio subscribers, which has
  - at least one radio subsystem (RSS, RSS\*) via which communications terminals (MS) which allow access by the radio subscribers can be connected in an associated radio area (RRA, RRA\*), and
- 15 at least one switching center (MSC) for switching through connections characterized by
  - a radio transmission unit (UE) which is arranged between the radio subsystem (RSS) and the switching center (MSC) and via which the connections are routed in such a way,
  - that, in the case of a call within a radio area between radio subscribers within the same radio area (RRA), or in the case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas (RRA, RRA\*), only signaling connections (si) are switched through from the radio transmission unit (UE) to the switching center (MSC), and
- that traffic channel connections (ni) are switched by the radio transmission unit (UE) between a first radio subsystem (RSS) and a second radio subsystem (RSS\*) in the case of a call within a radio area from the radio subsystem (RSS) itself or in the case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas (RRA, RRA\*).
  - 11. The radio communications system as claimed in claim 10, having
  - a radio transmission unit (UE) which is in the form of a satellite (SAT).

- 12. The radio communications system as claimed in claim 10 or 11, having
- an interworking unit (IWU, IWU\*) for controlling the switching of the signaling connections (si) and of the traffic channel connections (ni) in the respective radio subsystem (RSS, RSS\*).
- 13. The radio communications system as claimed in claim 12, having
- an interworking unit (IWU, IWU\*) which is connected to 10 a transcoder and data rate adaptation unit (TRAU, TRAU\*).
  - 14. The radio communications system as claimed in one of claims 10 to 13, having
- an interworking unit (IWU) for controlling the switching of the connections in the switching center (MSC).

Method and radio communications system for connection control during calls from/to radio subscribers

Based on a radio communications system having at least one radio subsystem (RSS) for access by the radio subscribers in an associated radio area (RRA) and having at least one switching center (MSC) switching through connections, the method and the radio system according communications to the invention provide for the connections between the radio subsystem and the switching center to be routed via a radio transmission unit (UE) in such a way,

- that, in the case of a call within a radio area between radio subscribers within the same radio area (RRA), or in the case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas (RRA, RRA\*), only signaling connections (si) are switched through from the radio transmission unit to the switching center, and

- that traffic channel connections (ni) switched by the radio transmission unit between a first radio subsystem (RSS) and a second radio subsystem (RSS\*) in the case of a call within a radio area from the radio subsystem (RSS) itself or in the case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas (RRA, RRA\*).

FIGURE 1

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### ABSTRACT

least one radio subsystem (RSS) for access by the radio

Based on a radio communications system (KN) having at

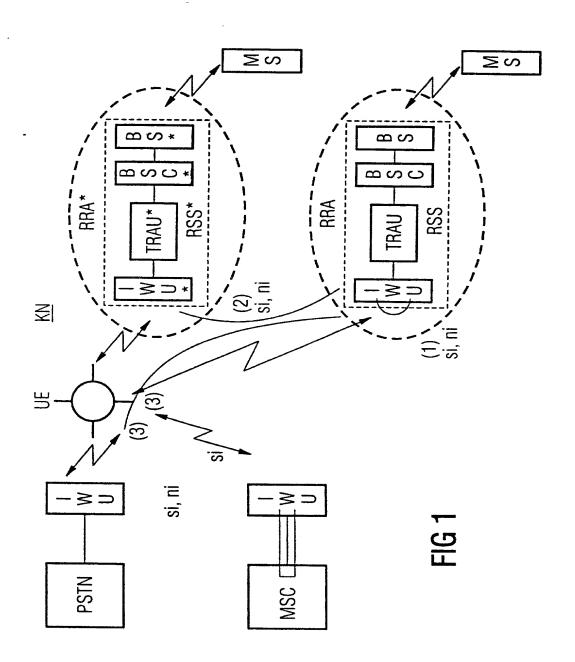
subscribers in an associated radio area (RRA) and having at least one switching center (MSC) for switching through connections, the method and the radio communications system according to the invention provide for the connections between the radio subsystem and the switching center to be routed via a radio transmission unit (UE) in such a way, that, in the case of a call within a radio area between radio subscribers within the same radio area (RRA), or in the case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas (RRA, RRA\*), only signaling connections (si) are switched through from the radio transmission unit to the switching center, and that traffic channel connections (ni) are switched by the radio transmission unit between a first radio subsystem (RSS) and a second radio subsystem (RSS\*) in the case of a call within a radio area from the radio subsystem (RSS) itself or in the case of a call between radio subscribers in different

radio areas (RRA, RRA\*).

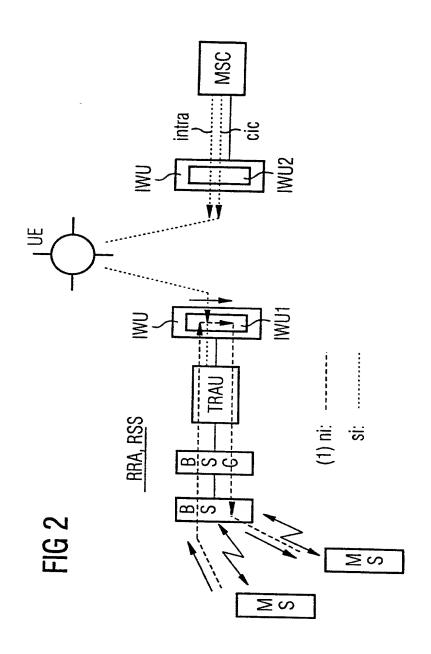
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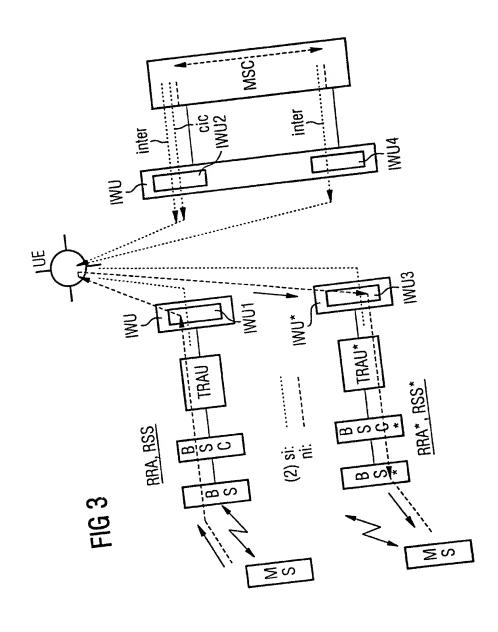
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### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Koen Muysewinkel, et al.

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INVENTION:

METHOD AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

FOR CONTROLLING CONNECTIONS FOR CALLS TO

AND BY RADIO SUBSCRIBERS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

### APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE POWER OF ATTORNEY

Sir:

I am an attorney designated on the Power of Attorney for the above-referenced application. I hereby appoint Mark Bergner (Reg. No. 45,877) as an associate attorney, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

P

Submitted by,

(Reg. No.31,870)

Melvin A. Robinson

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Date: September 22, 2000

# **Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application** Erklärung Für Patentanmeldungen Mit Vollmacht German Language Declaration

Als nachstehend benannter Erfinder erkläre ich hiermit an Eides Statt	As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that.
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Verfahren und Funk- Kommunikationsystem zur Verbindungssteuerung bei Anrufen von/ zu Funkteilnehmern	
deren Beschreibung	the specification of which
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Ich erkenne meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung irgendwelcher Informationen, die für die Prufung der vorliegenden Anmeldung in Einklang mit Absatz 37, Bundesgesetzbuch, Paragraph 1 56(a) von Wichtigkeit sind, an.	l acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1 56(a)
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Page 1	of 4

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Prior foreign apppl Prioritat beansprud				<u>Priorit</u>	y Claimed
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den Erklarung of besten Wissen entsprechen, und rung in Kenntnis vorsatzlich falsch Absatz 18 der Staaten von Am Gefängnis bestra wissentlich und vigkeit der vorlieg	gemachten Angal und Gewissen di dass ich diese ei dessen abgebe, d e Angaben gemä: Zivilprozessordnui erika mit Geldstra ift werden koennei vorsatzlich falsche		I hereby declare that my own knowledge at made on information true, and further that with the knowledge that he like so made imprisonment, or both of the United States C statements may jet application or any pate	re true and and belief these state at willful fal are punish, under Sect Code and the pardize the	that all statements are believed to be ments were made use statements and pable by fine or ion 1001 of Title 18 at such willful false walidity of the

### German Language Declaration

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POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, i hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

22,312), James D. Hobart (24,149), Robert M Barrett (30,142), James V Melvin A. Robinson (31,870), David R Metzger (32,919), John R. Garrett Corporation	(27,888) all members of the firm of Hill, S	io), Richard J. So Steadman & Simp	enwarz (13,472) an eson, A Profession
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Unterschrift des Erfinders Datum 8 13 199	Inventor's signature	[	Date
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Voller Name des zweiten Miterfinders (falls zutreffend) <sup>.</sup> HONDEGHEM, Henk	Full name of second joint inventor, if any		
Unterschrift des Erfinders Datum 8/3/99	Second Inventor's signature	C	Date
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Form PTO-FB-240 (8-83)

Patent and Trademark Office-U.S. Department of COMMERCE

CAFYMAEKERS Dirk Intersetter des Entinders  Datum	Full name of third joint inventor:	
nterscrift des Eninders Datum		
nterschiff des Eninders Datum		
	Inventor's signature	Date
7/3/99		
April sut	Residence	
2070 Zwijndrecht, Belgien		
taatsangehörigkeit	Citizenship	
Belgien		
ostanschrift	Post Office Address	
romenhove 31		
3- 2070 Zwijndrecht		
Belgien		
oller Name des vierten Miterfinders (falls zutreffend):	Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any:	
oner ryante des violentaments (lans 220 steam).		
Interschrift des Erfinders Datum	Inventor's signature	Date
	-	
Vohnsitz	Residence	
voimanz		
staatsangehörigkert	Citizenship	
aatsangenongken	,	
Postanschrift	Post Office Address	
OSIAIISCITIIL		
/oller Name des fünften Miterfinders (falls zutreffend):	Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any.	
		Date
Unterschrift des Erfinders Datum	Inventor's signature	Date
Vohnsitz	Residence	
Staatsangehörigkeit	Citizenship	
Postanschrift	Post Office Address	
Voller Name des sechsten Miterfinders (falls zutreffend)	Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any:	
Unterschrift des Erfinders Datum	Inventor's signature	Date
Wohnsitz	Residence	
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		
	Citizenship	
Staateangehorigkeit		
Staatsangehorigkeit		
	Post Office Address	
Staatsangehorigkeit Postanschrift	Post Office Address	
	Post Office Address	
	Post Office Address	

(Bitte entsprechende Informationen und Unterschriften im Falle von dritten und weiteren Miterfindern angeben).

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors)

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